MONTEREY NEWS

May 2018
Est. 1970 Vol. XLVIII · Number 5

Pick up at: the library (in and outside), town hall, community center, Roadside Cafe, Bracken-Brae farm stand (in-season), Swap Shop

Great Barrington area students and caring adults traveled to Washington, DC for the March for Our Lives on March 24. See Marya Makuc's account on page 8.

Gardeners and peepers, crocuses, violets, and early peas—we're all different species of cockeyed optimists.
It's Almost a Garden page 20

When Captain Renault ordered his policemen to "round up the usual suspects," it was 1942, in Casablanca.
The Usual Suspects page 7

Brazen Birds and Wildlife pages 28-29

Sunday morning Monterey softball is a community tradition going back over thirty years.
Monterey Softball page 25

Moles can swim, but our Eastern Mole swims mainly through dirt.
"I Wish I Was a Mole…" page 21

Several people have asked, "Where does the recycling go when it leaves our transfer station?"
Transfer Station at One Year page 8

What can one bring to children living in an orphanage that will, in a small way, better their lives?
Crocs for Kids page 13

The main possible threat for the future, of course, is global warming should this lead to the drying up of vernal pools.
Vernal Pool Salamanders page 23

The town hopes for a strong turnout for the annual town meeting on Saturday, May 5, beginning at 9:30 a.m., at the fire house.
Annual Town Meeting page 2

The town is pleased to announce that CART services will be provided for the first time at town meeting.
CART Services page 2

This year's election for town officers will be held on Tuesday, May 8.
Town Elections page 2

Her essay made the case that the American people have and will continue to inspire the fight for freedom on a global scale only if they continue to take the responsibility as citizens of a democracy seriously.
DAR Good Citizen Award page 18

Singing songs in a group is one of the great joys life has to offer.
How Can I keep from Singing? page 12

His older son, then a toddler, had hated church ever since then. "It's too tied in his mind to grief." It had turned the whole, now smaller, family off.
From the Meetinghouse page 14

Who's Who page 16

We're nowhere. We're lost. What a waste. Let's just turn around and go home.~ *It's got to be around here. We've gone this far. Let's just ask.*
High Anxiety—Low Anxiety page 27

Annual Town Meeting
Saturday, May 5, 9:30 a.m.

The town hopes for a strong turnout for the annual town meeting on Saturday, May 5, beginning at 9:30 at the fire house.

If you would like to view the warrant online, go to the front page of the town website.

CART Services

Mary Makuc, the town's ADA compliance officer, is pleased to announce that the town will provide CART services for the first time.

According to the web site of the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, "CART Service means Communication Access Realtime Translation Service. CART Service provides instantaneous translation of what is being said into visual print display so that it can be read (instead of heard). CART Service is one means of communication access for deaf or hard of hearing individuals." This will provide live captioning, projected on a large screen so it is visible to the audience.

The service is widely used in many settings, including in classrooms, legislative hearings, and during court proceedings. Monterey may be pioneering the use of CART at town meetings in our area. While it will certainly benefit those with a diagnosed hearing loss, it will doubtlessly help many others who don't have a hearing loss, but still struggle to hear in the acoustically challenging firehouse. That being said, people will need to take turns speaking, not interrupt. Please—no cross talking.

Monterey will be following the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), so that all citizens may hear AND understand and take part in the meeting.

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Town Elections
Tuesday, May 8

The year's election for town officers will be held on Tuesday, May 8. Polls will be open from 12 noon until 7 p.m., at the Monterey firehouse.

Below is the slate for the elections. Incumbents are indicated by asterisks. Party affiliation, or Independent status, is noted in parentheses for contested seats.

Contested Seats

Select Board (3 years)
Don Coburn (D & R)
Steven Weisz* (I)

Planning Board (5 years)
Richard Piepho* (R)
Scott Jenssen (D)

Uncontested Seats

Board of Appeals (Zoning) (5 years)
Scott Jensen (D & R)

Board of Assessors (3 year, vote for 2)
Donald Hopkins* (R & D)
Julio Rodriquez (R & D)

Board of Health (3 years)
Roy Carwile* (R & D)

Cemetery Commission (3 years)
Linda Thorpe* (D & R)

Finance Committee (3 years)
Rebecca Wolin (D)

Library Trustee (3 years, vote for 2)
MaryPaul Yates* (R & D)
Ann Canning (D & R)

Moderator (1 year)
Mark Makuc* (D & R)

Parks Commission (3 years, vote for 2)
Peter Poirer* (D & R)
Michal Strawbridge*

Parks Commission (1 year)
Vacant

Planning Board (5 years, vote for 2)
Pat Salomon* (D & R)
Don Coburn (D & R)

Tree Warden (1 year)
Kevin Fitzpatrick (R & D)

Candidate Statement
Finance Committee–Rebecca Wolin

I am Rebecca Wolin and I am asking for your vote for a seat on the Monterey Finance Committee. I believe my passion, education, my ability to work on a team, and my work experience in financial oversight of an organization's budgeting and financial planning are the qualities needed for a successful finance board member. My main goal is to help keep Monterey's tax rate one of the lowest in the area which will make Monterey affordable and attractive to residents.

I have owned property in Monterey for over ten years and have been a full time resident for almost three years. My daughter Danielle has been living in the area for over ten years.

I have my undergraduate degree in Accounting from the University of New Hampshire and my Masters in Business and Health Care Administration from the University of Massachusetts. I am currently the director of finance at Berkshire South Regional Community Center in Great Barrington.

In my previous positions with BC/BS of MA, Affinion Group, ARA Industries, and in public accounting, I was responsible for both operational and capital budgets, creating data analytics, and auditing.

I feel the role of a finance committee member is to advise and recommend spending and other financial matters to the select board and to ensure spending throughout the year is based on budgets and emerging needs. It is the finance committee who watches your funds and ensures they are spent wisely. Nobody likes wasteful spending.

Please cast your vote for me, Rebecca Wolin, on May 8 for a seat on the finance committee.

—Rebecca Wolin

Christopher Blair
DESIGN AND PLANNING
Residential Design
Kitchen/Bath Design
Construction Management
Project Representation
413.528.4960 17 Mahaiwe Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230

Candidate Statement
Select Board-Steven Weisz

It has been a distinct honor and a privilege to be your selectman for the past three years. During that time, I have committed myself to three things; understanding how special and unique Monterey is, fully understanding the "challenges" that Monterey faces (addressed in my article last month), and most importantly, helping to solve problems without changing the nature of our town. Not an easy task…but we have made significant progress.

As I write this article today, I can honestly say that we have done some good things together. Our town has a new transfer station with committed and helpful employees. We have finally opened our community center. Our roads and bridges are regularly inspected, expertly repaired and well maintained. Our lakes and waterways are being actively monitored and cared for, through our new town working group. Our financial house is back in order. Our budget process has been the smoothest in recent history, with a path toward a 0% increase this fiscal year. Lastly, there is a new spirit of harmony and camaraderie in town hall.

What I hope to accomplish during the next three years is to finish some important projects and set our town on a path forward. I remain committed to getting our second cell tower built, and delivering affordable and fast broadband to Monterey. I will continue to fight for every dollar that we have coming to us from the Commonwealth. I won't let the school district mute our voice because we are small. I will get to work on the new challenges of reviving our general store, issues surrounding large-scale marijuana production, and enhancing senior services that include transportation and housing initiatives. Finally, I will continue the tradition of an active and pro-active select board that understands the uniqueness of Monterey, and is responsive to all who are lucky enough to live here.

— Steven Weisz

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Joe Baker

Select board candidates Don Coburn (right) and Steven Weisz (right), met with about thirty-five voters at a recent candidate forum, moderated by Monterey News *editor, Stephen Moore (center.)*

Candidates Forum

Saturday morning's candidates forum started off with an appreciative nod from Stephen Moore, the *Monterey News* editor, initially to nineteen of Monterey's "usual suspects" who showed up around 10 in the Unitarian church basement (and grew to about thirty-five folks) to hear the arguments for election—or re-election in the case of Steven Weisz—for a three-year appointment that will soon open up on the board.

Also in attendance, though both (technically speaking) running unopposed, were Kevin Fitzpatrick, for tree warden, and Michal Strawbridge, looking for a spot on the parks commission.

The first to speak was Don Coburn, select board candidate. He corrected the impression that he was "the new guy" in town, pointing out that he and his wife had first purchased a house in town "almost a half century ago," and that they both became permanent Monterey residents in 2016. Coburn is originally from New Jersey, and though he refrained from providing further biographical information, he directed anyone interested to the statement he ran in the April issue of the *Monterey News*. Coburn said that he felt lucky to be in town, and pointed out that about one-fifth of the town residents worked on board or appointed positions, and thus it was a "very unified town." His main concerns would center around the library, the community center, the lakes, and the troubles with the general store. Coburn also mentioned his public service background of over fifty years, and he is a current member of the town's planning board.

Weisz, the select board incumbent of three years, spoke next, mentioning an ongoing enthusiasm for the wellbeing of the town. He praised the town's relatively cohesive response to working out problems, but emphasized how little support Monterey typically received from the Commonwealth and the federal government. A short list of Weisz's "great passions" started with the safety of the highways and bridges, maintaining a get-things-done approach on the part of the select board, addressing the lack of cell service in town, promoting the proper stewardship of Lake Garfield, furthering attempts to get money into the town through avenues other than taxation (with a concentration on grant writing, and mentioning an $800,000 community development block grant) to try and pave the way for a zero percent tax hike scenario, while continuing to encourage town employees, and attempting to clean up the "toxic town hall mess," and finally, to continue to look for solutions to the perennially troubled general store.

Moore then presented questions to the candidates, the first of which was whether, in the candidates's opinion, the town needed a town administrator or not.

Candidates Forum, cont. >

Coburn responded that, when our country's constitution was written, the founders initially intended a three-person executive, but came to their senses, realizing a single executive would be more empowered. He stressed that one person in an executive function, working in concert with the select board, could work, if the right person could be found.

Weisz countered that select boards "were wonderful things," and that the fact that they are highly visible occupants of the town leads to a beneficial accessibility. He mentioned that the first page of the select board handbook spells out that, in essence, the select board runs the town, and that he thought the idea of a town administrator being able to solve all the town's problems was unrealistic. He said that the town administrator Monterey recently hired turned out to have no interest in the town, nor did he take the time to get to know anything about it. The next candidate for the job, a former selectman, then asked to talk to everyone involved in town management and ultimately turned down the job with the advice that the town needed to "get its house in order" before it tried to hire anyone in that position. The town obviously had some work to do before it committed the $58,000 salary and health insurance to the position. Weisz then responded to a question from Cliff Weiss, "After three years on the board, why is our house not in order, and what can you do to fix it?"

Weisz responded that a great deal had been accomplished, that the "toxicity" in the town hall had been greatly diminished thanks to regular department meetings, that the treasurer and accounting services were now performing consistently, and thanks to audits every year (rather than every three years), the town now had the ability to accomplish library bonding (as one example).

Joe Baker

George Cain makes a point at the forum. Sitting alongside him is Dick Tryon, Mike Banner, and Wendy Germain.

Coburn answered that he had no idea as to what was going on in the town hall, but did remember hearing about some animosity there. He mentioned the necessity of identifying problems and working creatively to come up with solutions, and cited his experience as a trial judge, and his innovation of allowing jurors to ask questions. As an example of trying to solve problems creatively, he then sketched out the past problems with a Camp Hume lawsuit brought on by the "illegal actions" of the planning board, which came at the point that he joined the planning board, and, working with Kenn Basler (current select board member), helped the board recognize the futility of a suit, and settled it with far less expense than a legal action would have entailed. He pointed to his knowledge and experience as a judge in handling numerous planning board issues. He also went on to explain that a town administrator, while a chief executive, works under the select board and not vice versa.

Following up on a question by Wendy Germain was a question of tax fairness. Moore said that about 65% of the town land area doesn't pay taxes. George Cain clarified that some of this area is protected through 61A and 61B agricultural lands programs, and that in fact, Beartown State Forest does contribute some taxes. The question finally became, what is the role of PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) taxes and nonprofits?

Coburn said it was incumbent upon the town to ask for taxes from the nonprofits. He was in favor of the PILOT programs currently being floated, and felt that paying something toward the town was a "moral consideration."

Weisz answered that step one was engaging the organizations, and recognizing other benefits that these organizations can provide. He mentioned that the possibility of a solar farm at Gould Farm might be a benefit to the town, and that Camp Hume was open to a cell tower being constructed, with AT&T recently agreeing to locate on a new tower there.

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The next question, what to do about the schools, dovetailed with the issue of the changing demographics of the town.

Weisz mentioned the low number of children being born into the town, and the declining youth population overall, so he thinks that the Berkshire Hills School District needs to combine with the Southern Berkshire Regional School District as a cost-saving move, while at the same time he was still in favor of small towns and small schools.

Mary Ellen Brown, Monterey's school district representative, told the audience that there were a total of three young children ages three to five in Monterey (based on information from the town clerk), and that the Sheffield campus, built for a total of fifteen hundred students, was currently working with an enrollment of six hundred and fifty students. She said her interest in being on the school committee was to keep a school in Monterey. She has since come to recognize that transporting a dozen or more children from New Marlborough just so we can say we have a school in Monterey isn't fair. In addition, she pointed out that there are perhaps as many as thirty students being home schooled in Monterey, as part of the contingent of students who "choice" out of our district school.

Dick Tryon provided a perspective that the school district is doing a disservice to those young people who have no interest in attending college. For them, an active vocational education program would provide training to become local tradespeople, giving them the opportunity to stay and work in the area, raise children, and help rebalance the demographics. Weisz said that if the districts combined, a vocational program could be established at Mt. Everett for those young people.

While Michal Strawbridge said her kids handled the three hours they spent on the bus every day pretty well, she was in favor of a school within walking distance, though realistically the whole model would have to change to re-invigorate the town. Carol Edelman pointed out that the Monterey School had long been for kindergarteners, and so kids in town would attend a local school for only one year before having to be transported elsewhere.

The issue of town demographics was more specifically addressed in the next question. Moore said that about 40% of the town was over sixty-five years old.

Coburn said that the Council on Aging was working hard on those needs. He recognized that housing for the elderly was an issue, and that there might be solutions that were less expensive than a rest home. However, as he hadn't yet studied the situation, he had no answer.

Weisz said in his capacity as a realtor he saw many elderly people in houses that were now too large for them, and that their solution was to simply leave the area. He posed the hypothetical of whether it would be possible to keep them in town, and mentioned a recent by-law amendment allowing accessory dwelling units as a good start. He also referred to an idea sponsored by Julio Rogriquez to look at some of the land beyond the firehouse pavillion as a site for senior housing.

The candidates moved on to their (prematurely, as it turned out) closing statements.

Coburn suggested humorously that given this was a political race, the discussion should have been a bit more fun. He stressed that he was asked to run by the Democratic party, and also received the endorsement of the Republican party, which begged the question, "Why would people on both sides want to endorse someone else if his opponent had been doing such a good job for three years?"

Weisz answered that he is, in fact, an independent, and believes that most of the people in town are independents as well, and to further obfuscate things, when he first ran, even though he was then registered as a Democrat, the Republicans endorsed him. Weiss feels that this town does not do things in partisan ways. >

Kit Patten
Making Faces
April 27 - June 2
Reception: May 4, 6-7:30pm
preceded by Artist Talk at 5:30

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Monterey Library

Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

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Candidates Forum, cont.

The issue of broadband finally arose, with a bit of controversy.

Coburn said that Wiesz had not shown good judgment in his response to the broadband issue, and is himself strongly in favor of Fiber Connect, who will be serving seventy percent of the town, something no one else has been able to do, and which no other companies now have any interest in, given that most of the market will be taken. He said that Weisz, without approval from the select board, had gone to Boston and argued for his "chosen company," and that the select board ended up being split over the issue. *(Carol Edelman is recused from all matters concerning broadband.—Ed.)*

Coburn also mentioned that Weisz had lobbied for an increase in dump sticker fees, at a time when costs were going down. Despite the fact that neither of the other two board members were in favor of the increased fees, he pushed for a vote. In Coburn's words, Weisz apparently didn't "know when to hold 'em, and when to fold 'em."

Weisz defended himself, explaining that it was incumbent upon him to address the issue in Boston, having been invited by MBI to do so. The open meeting law prevented more than one board member from attending without a legal warning of the meeting, so he went on his own. He also has, all along, been very much in favor of a broadband option that would not require the $1,000 up-front cost of Fiber Connect, and didn't see the problem of a two-option system being put in place. Furthermore, Fiber Connect had no published financials, no books to show, and it was only fair to the taxpayers to be able to assess the viability of any company they contracted with as good political stewardship.

Weisz then addressed the dump sticker fees with the argument that they had, in fact, gone up ten dollars, and that they were managing to hold the line on that. Meanwhile, he asked, why hamstring the budget, and, finally, said, "disagreement is not the end of the world."

Moore invited the two other candidates who were in attendance to be recognized and make statements.

Michal Strawbridge, who has lived full time in Monterey for three years, spoke up when asked about her candidacy for parks commission. She was enthusiastic about Monterey and wants to support the town. She mentioned she is also a registrar. Kenn Basler singled her out for special commendation for being part of the only family in the last three years to have moved to town with children.

Kevin Fitzpatrick, a member of the town's highway department, would like to become tree warden. He proposed that the town needs a more deliberate plan of attack in addressing the threatening branches or dead trees along the roadways in order to make them safer, and to make the highway department's work more efficient. Asked how this would be done, he suggested a more coordinated game plan that would change from the random way the tree services were now called out to address problems piecemeal to grouping the needs in one area at a time. Carol Edelman stood up to give Mr. Fitzpatrick a solid endorsement.

—David Irland

Monterey Graduate
Donovan Sawyer

The following profile shows just a brief snapshot of the future plans and high school highlights of one of Monterey's high school seniors.

Donovan Sawyer is the daughter of Suzanne and Tom Sawyer of Monterey. This fall, Donovan will be attending Nichols College in Dudley, MA. While at Nichols, she will pursue the study of criminal justice to prepare for a career in law enforcement. In eighth grade, Donovan started volunteering at the Southern Berkshire Child Care Program. Now an intern with SBCCP, Donovan says that this experience has been one of the most enjoyable and educational of her high school years. Some of Donovan's fondest memories of Monterey include spending time at Lake Garfield with family and friends and getting ice cream from the Monterey General Store. Donovan will be graduating from Mount Everett Regional High School on June 2 in the Koussevitzky Shed at Tanglewood in Lenox, MA.

Do you know of any other high school seniors graduating this spring that live in Monterey? Contact Marya Makuc at makuc.marya@gmail.com to include a profile for June's issue.

—Marya Makuc

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In My View
The Usual Suspects

When Captain Renault ordered his policemen to "round up the usual suspects," it was 1942, in Casablanca. Seventy-six years later, in Monterey, we are still enlisting the usual suspects, only this time we refer to the forty or fifty active citizens who fill out town committees, boards, and organizations on a regular basis. Are you one of the usual suspects? If not, you may be missing out on a uniquely rewarding experience. Monterey needs you.

There are numerous elected positions, of course, but there are many other ways to get involved in the dynamics of our community. If you haven't been participating, may I suggest that you take some small steps to become immersed in Monterey and all it has to offer. Have you attended any classes, workshops, or lectures at the Monterey Community Center? Art, music, yoga, fun and games—check the calendar online. Have you been to a community potluck dinner? Look for the sign in front of the Congregational church announcing this monthly event. The library offers gallery shows (and openings with tasty refreshments) on a regular basis; come see what area painters, sculptors, photographers, and other visual artists are creating. The *Monterey News* calendar lists a variety of free or inexpensive community events — get your feet wet. (Sign up for the monthly calendar to be emailed to you.)

Once you've gotten out the door, you might next try attending some committee meetings. Sitting in on a conservation commission, planning board, school committee, select board or Lake Garfield Working Group meeting may not sound enticing. But if you want to "see where the sausage is made," where the regulations and decisions that directly affect the quality of life in our community are discussed and settled, this is where it happens. Most meetings are posted and open to the public. (Sign up for the News & Announcements through the town website, montereyma.gov. You can get listings for all the posted meetings.)

You may have professional expertise to share. However, in most instances, no experience is necessary to get active—just a willingness to show up, learn, and participate. Consider volunteering for a committee, board, or local organization. Pitch in and help at the Friends of the Library book sale. Attend a meeting, lecture, or show right here in Monterey.

The most valuable aspects of serving as a member of the select board, library trustee, land trust, playground committee, Lake Garfield Working Group, and other community groups? For me, one is the opportunity to learn, in depth, about challenging issues which matter, and the chance to make a positive difference. Tip O'Neill once said, "All politics is local," and he was right. This is where it all starts. Another personal benefit has been connecting with neighbors, becoming friends with people who care about our community and are willing to work to achieve common goals. Get out of the house during the endless winter, during mud season. Sometimes there are yummy snacks at meetings. If not, bring some to share. Everyone will be delighted to see you. And occasionally, they're even just plain fun. Really.

When my kids were growing up I told them, "All you have to do is show up, pay attention, and do the work." That was the formula for success in school, and I believe it is true for real world community building. If you show up, pay attention, and do the work, you may become one of the "usual suspects." Get involved. You, and Monterey, will be glad you did.

—Carol Edelman
Monterey Select Board

You're Invited to the Sandisfield Arts Center's
A Black & White Event
Annual Spring Dinner and Benefit Auction
Saturday, May 5th at 6 pm

For information about the benefit dinner, see page 29.

Monterey Community Potluck Suppers

Join us May 17 to hear:
Nini Gilder

Author of *Edith Wharton's Lenox*
How Wharton caused a stir!

See the community potluck supper article on page 21.

3rd Wednesdays, October–May
6 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Monterey Church

For more information,
call Kyle Pierce, 528-9213

Editor's Note: In My View *is a monthly feature for this paper. Select board members have an opportunity, on a rotating basis, to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.*

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Mount Everett Walkout
March for Our Lives in DC

Students at Mount Everett Regional High School held a school walkout on March 14 at 10 a.m. Participating in the national walkout, over a hundred students took seventeen minutes (the number of students murdered at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School) to protest Congress's inaction to enact stricter gun regulation and to stand in solidarity with the students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Prior to the walkout, workshops were offered on the topics of petitioning, marching effectively, influencing legislators, and strengthening community through acts of kindness. The goal of these workshops was to equip students as citizens, and prepare them to speak out not only on the issue of gun control, but all future issues they feel passionate about.

Beyond the one day walkout, students were encouraged to attend the March for Our Lives that was planned for March 24 in Washington, DC. Sponsored by a community member and coordinated by Railroad Street Youth Project, two buses of young people were given the opportunity to attend the march without having to worry about transportation or meal costs. The number of Mount Everett students participating in the march was so large that even the performance schedule of the musical "Godspell" was altered to accommodate student participation.

To best capture the thoughts of the youth who attended the March, it makes the most sense to simply share statements from three Monterey Mount Everett students who attended the March for Our Lives. I hope readers will value, respect, and learn from the following insights.

"I was lucky to be one of the twenty-six students from Mount Everett High School, one of the 108 students with Railroad Street Youth Project, and one of the 850,000 people to attend the March for Our Lives held in Washington, DC on March 24. I have never participated in any kind of event like this one but I am beyond glad that I did, and that I had the opportunity to do so. My hopes are that the efforts of all of the young people who came together can help begin the process of making a difference and influencing our current gun laws." —Donovan Sawyer (Senior)

"I am amazed and proud to see our generation stepping up and voicing their opinions. It is a first in American history and I'm proud to have been a part of such a great movement. However, I think that there are some people who have gotten too caught up in their emotions. We must remember to be civil and courteous when voicing our opinions, regardless of any emotions we may be carrying." —Jake Martin (Sophomore)

"The rally was truly a unique experience. The messages were clear and powerful; people with many different ideas gathered together in unity. It was a powerful sign of how negligence will only make a problem worse. However, in my opinion, parts of the event seemed almost violent. I would be lying if I said that the chants that were the most aggressive did not pull me in a couple of times, or that I did not get nervous when the majority of the crowd booed. It was an eye-opening experience, not only because it showed what people will do when they are fighting for justice, but also how, even in these heroic situations, we must be careful not to become a mindless mob. I hope we can all work together to change the world in a strong, yet responsible way." —Elisabeth Enoch (Sophomore)

—Marya Makuc

Transfer Station at One Year

Well, we made it. It's now been one year since the new Monterey Transfer Station has opened. All has gone well, in fact better than expected. All our new equipment, thanks to Valley, has worked flawlessly throughout this very cold winter and the town public works department did an outstanding job keeping the road and areas around the transfer station and swap shop clear of snow and well sanded. Though the weather was terrible at times, many have taken advantage of the swap shop and its many treasures that have come in (and out). Now that the weather is improving, remember our compost container located on your right as you are leaving. Every little thing we can do to reduce our trash flow not only helps the environment but also cuts down on the town's trash costs. Also, remember we now have a container for used mattresses at no cost. In the year to come we hope to have a covering for our winter sand pile to help keep the sand dry and snow free.

Several people have asked, "Where does the recycling go when it leaves our transfer station?" It may go to different locations at different times, but this is what I know now. Our plastics go to North Carolina, the glass goes to Strategic Material (a recycling company), the cardboard goes to a paper mill in Holyoke, and metal goes to be reclaimed. Right now our general trash is loaded onto rail cars and sent to a landfill.

In the upcoming months both Lenox and Great Barrington are having hazardous material collection days. You may obtain information at the transfer station.

Hope everyone has a great spring.

—Beth Parks and Dave Gilmore

SUSAN M. SMITH
Attorney At Law

38 Mahaiwe St., Suite 1
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

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Library News

Thanks to all of the town boards and commissions who have been working to give us the permits and go-ahead to our construction project. We hope to have most of this completed shortly. This project is more complex than a standard residential building project. The proximity of the Konkapot River, the small lot size, a municipal project in the business district, commercial building codes, the requirements from the grant-awarding authority, and a host of other complications, have combined to require extra scrutiny. We have seen these town officials who are volunteers having to work hard to understand and approve this project.

Because we received so much grant money, we are not allowed to cut any corners. When we first got the planning and design grant we found out that once we had come up with our building program, which outlined the town's needs from a library, we needed to hire an owner's project manager (OPM) to oversee the project. The manager follows the rules and regulations, but is answerable to the town and protects our interests. Once we hired an OPM, we would be allowed to hire a designer and start the sequence that would build us a new library. Following the prescribed legal path we put out a request for qualifications, interviewed the four responding candidates, and in September of 2015, hired Dan Pallotta, who is the President of P-Three, a project management firm.

Dan has a Bachelor of Science in Architecture and Planning. He spent years as a contractor, and was also very involved in municipal government. As a selectman in his town, he was involved in three school construction projects and saw the amount of work it took to complete a municipal building. With his background as a contractor, he saw an opportunity to found a firm that specializes in municipal project management. He has been an OPM for many libraries in Massachusetts, as well as other schools, senior centers, and other municipal buildings. He has worked with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners on many other projects, and, fortunately for us, knew the requirements for the MBLC grants. Once we hired him he went right to work and helped us hire a designer, something the library trustees had never done.

Dan is there to guide us from the conception to completion. He began educating us right away in the myriad of Massachusetts General Laws that apply. He helped us to focus on the requirement to provide library services for the next twenty years in a cost efficient way. He has been visible in our current permitting to assure those boards and commissions that this project will comply with the various regulations. The OPM is the guardian of the monies, however they are raised. He keeps the designer on schedule and in budget. He ensures that public procurement is followed from the selection of the designer to the last piece of furniture. He inspects the quality and quantity of all construction components and has a visible presence to document the contractor's adherence to specifications during construction. He assists in providing documentation to receive the grant payments. He will ensure that we will get the training necessary for the new systems in the buildings so as to properly maintain this huge investment by the town.

Dan has been at many of the permitting hearings as well as our information sessions on the project, and even attended the town meetings where the project was voted on. His personal commitment to seeing this project through has been nothing short of amazing. Having been in government in a small town out east, he understands the importance of knowing how to navigate through the alphabet soup of boards and commissions in the permitting phase. While we trust our architect, Dan has been there to review his work. We are counting on him to guide us through the hiring of a contractor, and then to be there to check the work being done. We will continue to rely on his experience until that final grant check is received. If you haven't seen Dan yet at the town meeting or at a permitting hearing, you will be seeing him as he comes out to the project until it is done. We should all be thankful he is on our side ensuring our newest investment in Monterey is something that we can all be proud of. Thank you, Dan.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director

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Town Meeting Voting

This article, by moderator Mark Makuc, was published in December of 2016. Select board member Carol Edelman asked if the paper could reprint it in advance of this year's annual town meeting. —Editor

The town moderator is an elected position that has the responsibility of making sure your town meetings happen in an organized and fair manner. Town meeting goes back centuries, and while there are some customs and practices that seem so old they make no sense, a New England town meeting has proven itself to be flexible, and has adapted to a changing world. In the beginning the law required citizens of the town to attend. That is no longer the case, but it is your right, if you are a registered voter, to attend, discuss, and participate in the decision making process. Once the warrant, which warns the voters about the issues, has been posted, a quorum is gathered, and the meeting is opened, then the town as a whole can discuss and make decisions.

The first ingredient of the town meet ing is the select board's warrant. It is this elected board's responsibility to prepare the warrant. There are issues, such as the budget, that need to be decided upon every year, and then there are issues that simply need to be dealt with by the town whether once or periodically. In addition, there are issues that citizens can petition the meeting to deal with. Massachusetts General Law (MGL) deals specifically with the powers of the meeting and how decisions are made. Some towns also have their own bylaws. Many of the bylaws have prescribed margins by which the town must vote for a motion to pass, and some of them even have prescribed methods of voting, stipulating, for example, that a vote to create a committee needs to be on a secret ballot.

There are also procedural votes. Motions like "calling the question" and "tabling" are among the more common ones used. Those motions come from parliamentary procedure and usually resemble what you might find in a legislative body. It is important to note, however, that town meeting does not have sessions of duration similar to many of those bodies. Most town meetings are annual. Some towns have meetings that continue for several nights, but once concluded, the "session" is over. So while these procedural motions may be in *Robert's Rules of Order*, the way in which a town meeting uses them may not be exactly the same as parliament.

Robert's Rules is simply a guideline. The Monterey Library has a book published by the Moderators' Association titled Town Meeting Time, which explains the basics of how a meeting can be run.

Town meeting has a long history of voice votes. There is a reason for this. Many towns still only have one annual town meeting and few if any special meetings, and this makes written ballots problematic. A ballot would have to be prepared in advance, not allowing for the flexibility to amend articles during the meeting. Amendments can be worked out on the floor of the meeting in order to help refine an article. Of course there are limits on amendments as well. Voice votes are generally the first course of action of any matter, whether it be the article itself or a procedural question, because a voice vote can be quickly taken. If there is a specific bylaw or Massachusetts General Law that calls for a secret ballot, the voting skips right to that. There are many meetings where there are no secret ballots.

The moderator's role, after guiding any discussion, is to poll the meeting to reach a decision. In most cases a simple majority vote by registered voters is sufficient to direct the legal action taken by the Town. One way or another, the majority rules. The moderator has the power to decide the vote. One law from MGL says that if seven voters question the moderator's decision, there will be a count. I have often anticipated this and called for a hand count if there is any question. The numbers show more closely how the meeting feels. Over the years Monterey has developed a system whereby when a registered voter checks into the meeting, they are handed a colored index card. Instead of counting hands, the clerk and the moderator can count cards. There is an element of trust in that no one is checking the voter rolls for individual votes. The moderator trusts that each voter will only vote once and will not allow someone else to use their card. Cards are not transferrable. The last method of voting is by secret ballot whereby the clerk has simple yes- and no- slips of paper that are easily ripped in half. You put either the 'yes' or the 'no' half into the ballot box (the other option is thrown out). It then takes volunteers some time to count the vote while the meeting usually moves on to the next item. Ultimately the moderator has the responsibility of declaring the result of the vote. In a court of law, the moderator's decision will win unless there is a procedural issue with the vote.

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Once a vote is recorded by the clerk and the meeting is over, the town clerk is responsible for sending the results to the Commonwealth to confirm. The moderator has nothing to do with this step. The state may conclude that certain money votes need two-thirds majority, or that a zoning vote had the required two-thirds majority and the required hearing in advance of the town meeting. Citizens's petitions can be particularly tricky. For instance there was an article to ban jet skis on Lake Garfield some years ago. The meeting so voted, but the state rejected it for reasons I can't remember. If you want to submit a citizen's petition you really need to research how to write it legally and whether it is even possible for a town meeting to take that type of an action. We have had many articles over the years (one for example had to deal with transporting nuclear waste), which, in the end, resulted in nothing more than a non-binding resolution. Citizens's petitions allow a meeting to take actions that the select board won't sponsor. It is important that these petitions be clearly written to avoid confusion about intent, since town meeting is a legal meeting. Do your research.

I was elected moderator in 1984. I had no idea what I was doing. I have had to learn by experience. Most importantly, I learned early on that there are laws that need to be followed exactly, such as a two-thirds vote to amend zoning bylaws, and that there are procedures that are not so exact, such as allowing non-registered voters to speak. I have always tried to let the meeting decide how it should proceed. If you are a resident of Monterey, you need to be registered to vote, but when someone who is younger than eighteen or a second-home owner would like to comment or ask a question, I have generally let them speak. My belief has always been that I should make your town meeting one in which everyone feels comfortable expressing their opinion and voting as they wish. My hope is that after the meeting is over, everyone will continue to respect each other as fellow townspeople even if they are not in agreement.

I hope this clarifies some of how a town meeting is conducted. There are certainly times when procedures are confusing, but rest assured, after all my years, I have found times where I still turn to the town counsel, and ultimately to you, as the town meeting, to decide on a fair course of action and a decision that accurately reflects the people who make up the meeting. The issues we take up are no less complex than the world we live in, and the decisions we make are important. The next time you come to town meeting, it is my hope you feel that you have been a part of a decision-making process that is civil, fair, and represents the sentiments of the town of Monterey. Most importantly, I hope you feel you can freely speak if you so choose, vote your conscience, and be counted.

— Mark Makuc
Town Moderator

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How Can I Keep From Singing?

Singing songs in a group is one of the great joys life has to offer.....and not enough people know it!

This summer Oren Rosenthal will lead a six-week series for people to learn a small repertoire of easy, fun, uplifting songs that we can sing in unison or with simple harmonies. All levels of singers are welcome, including the most inexperienced.

Join us at the Monterey Community Center Tuesday evenings at 7:30, starting June 19 through July 31. There is no fee; just your willingness to sing. No need to sign up, just come.

Oren has been teaching and leading singing for all ages and all confidence levels for over thirty years; he plays guitar, fiddle, and accordion.

If you have questions please call the Monterey Community Center at 413.528.3600 or write to calendar@ccmonterey.org.

Mindfulness Meditation Group

Franny Huberman will facilitate a mindfulness meditation practice group at the Monterey Community Center, beginning Friday, May 4, from 7 to 8 p.m,, and meeting weekly every Friday evening except the second Friday of each month (when the community center hosts board game night). This is a free event, open to all from beginners to experienced practitioners; no supplies needed. Franny will introduce the parameters of the practice if needed for any beginners in the first fifteen minutes of the session. If you have questions or want to know more about mindfulness, come fifteen minutes early to the first session on May 4.

To learn something about mindfulness practice, visit this website: mindful.org/what-is-mindfulness/

Flowers in a Vase, with Non-dominant Hand. *Drawing by Kit Patten, 2018*

Kit Patten—Mindful Art

The artist who focuses attention on the process of making the art rather than the goal of the finished product seeks to open the creative channels within her/himself. By being present with the sensory experience of the art-making process, one can discover new dimensions to the artistic imagination, as well as improve one's well-being.

Please join Monterey artist Kit Patten in a three-hour workshop, Mindful Art-Making, on Sunday, June 3, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Monterey Community Center. No experience with this approach is necessary. Bring whatever art materials you like for this workshop (paper, canvas, clay, or other two- or three-dimensional materials; some materials will be provided for group exercises). Pre-registration is required, and the workshop fee is $30.

MCC Upcoming Events

We are excited to announce that Berkshire novelist and playwright, Sonia Pilcer, will lead a two-hour workshop titled, "Speak Memory—memoir writing workshop," on Saturday, June 16, from 2 to 4 p.m. Whatever your reasons might be for wanting to write about your experience, Sonia will provide helpful techniques to get your words flowing onto paper. Pre-registration is required for this workshop, and the cost is $20.

In July, we invite you to explore yet another side of your creative self with a mandala workshop led by Susan Cain. This workshop requires no experience, only an interest in your own relationship to patterns, colors, and shapes, and thereby to your emotions. Join Susan on Saturday, July 21, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., to learn more about this ancient practice with examples from almost all cultures around the world. Susan will provide all materials. The workshop is suitable for ages thirteen and up, but those under nineteen must be accompanied by an adult family member. The $20 registration fee includes materials cost.

If registration is required for any of these events, please visit our website's event registration page to register and pay, at ccmonterey.org.

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The Monterey Community Center also hosts a number of ongoing activities which are available to all at little or no cost.

Yoga: Beginning on June 30 and running each Saturday morning through September 1, we will present an hour of Outdoor Yoga from 11 a.m. to noon. Connie Wilson has organized the schedule of teachers, which will include herself. Now that we have a functioning building, we have a plan for inclement weather!

Dancercize: Each week on Thursday, at 4 p.m., Barbara Cohen leads a free hour-long dance/exercise session, with music. All are welcome to drop in and enjoy the fun.

Fiber Arts: Each month on the first Thursday, at 1 p.m.,Wendy Jensen hosts the Darn Yarners, a loosely-knit group of people who knit, crochet, spin, mend, joke and palaver about fiberwork, among other things. All are welcome.

Board Games: Elaine Lynch hosts an evening of fun each month on the second Friday, from 7 to 9 p.m. We have a number of board games on hand, and people are welcome to bring their own favorites as well. It's a blast, and non-competitive.

The Monterey Community Center is available to you, subject to scheduling of course—it is a community facility. To see what's happening or to reserve your meeting time, consult our website and the event calendar contained there, www.ccmonterey.org. Or email calendar@ccmonterey.org.

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Susan Cain

Crocs for Kids

A Visit to Ramana's Garden

What can one bring to children living in an orphanage that will, in a small way, better their lives? Upon learning that I would be spending time at an orphanage as part of a ten-day trip to Rishikesh, India, I decided to bring a suitcase full of Croc sandals, art supplies, and playground equipment to the children. This children's home is where food, health care, clothing, and education are made available to children who are saved from living on the streets or in homes where the quality of life is in question. Also, the orphanage is situated in a location where organic food is raised by the children. A loving environment is provided so that these children learn to take care of themselves and the others, as well as learning to cook and serve food to guests in the cafe.

I was able to raise enough money to bring the large suitcase full of shoes, art supplies, and playground balls to the children living at Ramana's Garden. If you would like to learn more about this children's home, go to ramanas.org to learn a number of ways you can make a difference in the lives of these children.

I offer Kundalini yoga in my home at 9 Heron Pond Park in Monterey on Tuesday mornings at 10 to 11:30. A percentage of the monthly class fee is donated to Ramana's Garden.

I can be reached at susancain9@gmail.com, or by calling 203-249-8958. Please look at the *Monterey News* calendar for the monthly class schedule.

—Susan Cain

From the Meetinghouse

I once knew a man whose infant son died, though long before we knew each other. Learning that I was a pastor, he explained (a little guiltily) that he hadn't been to church in a long time, hadn't really been since his baby had died, since the funeral. His older son, then a toddler, had hated church ever since then. "It's too tied in his mind to grief." It had turned the whole, now smaller, family off.

I've heard lots of reasons for people falling away from faith practice. That such a thing can be too tied to grief: this struck me as a particularly valid one. Praise and lament are, after all, foundational to the worship life of the "people of the book." The Psalms, which both Jews and Christians use in worship, can be sorted into two main categories, praise and lament. As for Christian practice, central to it is the Resurrection of Jesus, which is necessarily tied up with the crucifixion of Jesus: praise and lament. The church, it's said, is then to be a Resurrection people, a people who live into the assured joy and deathless hope of new life, new possibility. But, that this renewal hinges on the death of what has been: praise and lament.

If you ask me, there are practices that are rightly to be criticized for emphasizing overmuch one or the other—those stuck on the death of God and those too sure of eternal life, the former too morbid, the latter happy-clappy. The right balance, an honest and hopeful and courageous holding of both: this is my aim, in my faith practice, in my worship leadership, most of all in my living.

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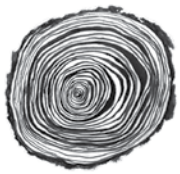

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Last month, I wrote of laughter. This month, lament.

Lament comes hard to Americans. Maybe this is true for people of all sorts. But I think it's true in particular ways of Americans. I mean, among our inalienable rights is the pursuit of happiness, which could be taken to mean that anything threatening our happiness is a real offense, downright un-American. I even once met a fellow American who laid it plain. "I don't do grief," she told me.

She meant this to explain her reluctant participation in a retreat I'd just co-led, which touched on grief. She was the senior pastor's wife, and I was the pastoral intern, and it was a retreat intended for the women of the congregation, so she sort of had to take part. An aging woman, she was still in her Chanel suits, not yet in a hospital gown. (We'll most of us get there.) "I don't do grief," she'd said.

"Wow," was my thought response, "nice work if you can get it…"

The problem is that lately there seems to be much to grieve, much for Americans to lament. The post-war party is over. It's been crashed by all the peoples of the world, suddenly a global effort to create wealth and get in on capitalism and create opportunity for even the most far-flung folks. Worse, though, the "end of history," by which liberal democracy and laissez-faire capitalism were to have been the proven winners, with America as their flagship, now seems merely to have been yet another phase of history— this turbulent journey by which we're exhausted and weather-beaten, and which seems not to end (and with us on top!) but instead to keep churning.

Suddenly, American exceptionalism is harder to spot, harder to defend. "Morning in America" has given way to "American carnage" in popular political imagining.

But it's not just people being uppity beyond our borders. Here at home, hegemony has given way to multiplicity as regards who has power and to what end they put it to use. America is browning. America is feminizing. And this comes as a victory to many—a cause for celebration. (Full disclosure: I celebrate that.) It strikes others, though, as a humiliation, an energizing of grievance—which calls out in other others their own grievance, until it's grievance all around.

It's funny how much we seem to prefer grievance to grief.

What would it take, though, to allow for our grief, and what good might come of that?

Because, I know: you've lost a job, you've lost a child. You've lost a lover, a parent, a sib. You've lost standing, dignity, the admiration of your neighbors. I know.

I know, because it's true of me too. In the last several weeks alone, I've lost a friend, a race, and a professional disagreement, by which I saw my standing diminished. And it was all quite humiliating, even painful, even enraging—to have lost!

And sometimes I pursue it all as grievance: I'll get even.

Other times, though, I sit with it as grief, these commonplace (if acute) occurrences that everyone—everyone—will eventually have gone through, which therefore recasts what might feel like zero-sum stuff, all over and against, instead as common experience and therefore cause for compassion.

Lately I've been thinking of faith practice with a heavy emphasis on practice. There's much about our living, and moreover about our living together, that seems flawed, in need of further practice. The breadth of human experience, then, which we in the meetinghouse consider on any given Sunday; I mean to allow for this sort of practice.

I've also lately been imagining regular religious engagement as a re-grounding of what would otherwise be a live, loose wire. Many of our encounters with one another feel electrified and ungrounded, reactive at the cost of responsive and relational. For me, the remedy for such reactivity is a grounding in and of my deepest self, this which comes from within, and is held among, and is received from above and beyond.

No surprise: I find this deep self in church, and I aim for others to as well, any who'd come through our doors on any given Sunday.

Of course, there is much about our ancient traditions to turn people off. Among the lot these days, if low on the list, is that to practice them exacts a certain demand, and our culture isn't so friendly to such demands, to such cost. But if something doesn't cost me, then I have a hard time finding its value.

This month the church will celebrate an especially weird holy day. Ascension Day is when the church remembers Jesus, resurrected, now forty days later ascending to heaven. Always forty days after Easter, this year it will be on May 10. And it's a weird holiday because, though it seems like good news for Jesus, it's certainly less clearly so for his friends—those who loved him, and who'd organized their lives around him, not to mention their life together. For these, it was all loss, the story even saying that Jesus disappeared from their sight, and, as it happened, for the last time.

It's weird to celebrate being left behind. It's indeed sorrowing to remember that day when you lost the thing you'd come to love and to rely on. True, the story tells us the disciples all departed from that place "in great joy." But I'll admit I likely wouldn't have felt that way.

Nonetheless, I remember Ascension Day and often have the congregation do so as well, leading us all in a worship service about this beautiful, sorrowing departure. It's good practice, I figure, for what will certainly someday be made real for each of us, and for all—perhaps for some has already been made real. We will not always win. We will not always get what we want, or be able to keep what we have. Grief will find us. Unless we seek shelter in grievance, in the clawing back of what we sense ourselves to be losing, this clawing back that never yet manages its promised return, grief will find us.

But it doesn't have to find us alone.

We're a small group gathered in the meetinghouse on any given Sunday, but that's only if you measure by number. We're a strong group gathered on any given Sunday, given what heavy lifting we manage among even just the few of us. Grief and gratitude, lament and praise, remembrance and hope, sorrow and joy, offered and received in accordance with abundance or need.

That's what's coming from the meetinghouse this month.

—Pastor Liz Goodman

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Our Lady of the Hills Chapel
New Mass Times this Summer

We congratulate Father Bruce Teague who has retired from Our Lady of the Valley Parish. We wish him well as he settles into this next phase of his life. With this change, a new Mass time has been selected for Our Lady of the Hills Chapel, 70 Beartown Mountain Road, in Monterey. This year our summer Saturday celebrations will be at 5:45 p.m., beginning July 7 through August 26. Father Peter and Deacon Sean look forward to seeing you there.

—Deacon Sean Mulholland

Otis Cultural Council
Annual Tag Sale

The annual Otis Cultural Council's tag sale will be held on Saturday, May 26, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., at the Otis Ridge Ski area parking lot, on Route 23. $10 per table space for Otis residents and $15 per table space for non-residents. Bring your own tables. Spaces fill up quickly, so call me at 413-269-4008 to reserve your spot. It's time to clean out your house and garage and be ready for the tag sale.

— Vicki Ernst

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Who's Who in Monterey.
Del Martin—Blacksmith

The year is 2002. The year we found our home in Monterey. We had a 1992 Subaru Loyale and it was not being kind or loyal to us. That is when we drove into Del Martin's shop on Main Road. Our first meeting with this interesting, diverse, and well-schooled person in automotive repair. Over the years, Del has worked as a mechanic, firefighter, farmer, solar energy consultant, and now in his current endeavor as town blacksmith.

Del and his wife Christine moved to Monterey more than twenty years ago. Christine is an educator at Mt. Everett School, a real estate agent and office manager at Kinderhook realty, a chef and mixologist par excellance. She was born and raised in Glendale. Their daughter Claudia and son Jake serve our town as junior fire fighters.

Del was born and raised in Burlington, Vermont. He and Christine met at University of Vermont where Del received his masters in structural geology. When we first met, Del was still spelunking in West Virginia, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. I could never imagine going down manhole size entrances in the ground to explore caves. Del enjoyed sharing photos of what some of the cavers left behind.

It was great spending time with Del in what was his automotive shop, which has now become Knox Trail Forge. The forge is named for General Henry Knox's route with his army that passed through here on his way hauling cannons from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston, so many winters ago, during the Revolutionary War. Del's forge takes us back to a time when the town blacksmith serviced the community in so many ways. He has candle stands, knives, hinges, bottle openers, hearth tools, corkscrews and garden gates, and many other projects that have found their way into Monterey homes. All displaying amazing design, craftsmanship, and artistry. He is assisted by his trusted apprentice Lorena. There are days Claudia and Jake are also at the forge. Del is self taught. None of this happened over night.

In between heating forged iron over a bed of glowing coals until the iron was red hot and malleable, Del talked about his life

Cheryl Zellman

The east bay of Del's shop on Main Road, which he used for auto repair, is now devoted to his forge work. With his door open, you can see his works in progress.

Cheryl Zellman

in Monterey. He expressed strong opinions about government, property rights, fiscal responsibility, and the importance of our volunteer fire department. His opinions are founded on a strong moral sense of history as well as right and wrong.

So, from the forge to Del and Christine's home, we talked about his trials and tribulations as a builder of homes, engines, computers, as well as pig farming. I was fortunate to meet Fluffy and Oscar, two very gigantic pigs I have grown to admire, and their many piglets. (Fluffy and Oscar wandered back to page 29.) Del also built a meat smoker from a steel file cabinet. I have heard the brisket is amazing.

I must say spending time with Del and his family was amazing. He was kind enough to spend a lot of time with me at his forge, his home, and the farm. Del's interests, skills, and abilities, along with his strong sense of individualism, help make him a great representative of the spirit of Monterey.

—Cheryl Zellman

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Easter Seed

Letter to L (part 1)

Knee deep in snow
first day of spring
more o' both to come, I hear
new moon sugar moon
hangin' next to Orion
while I trudge
an' trudge is the seasonal verb
to my nightly ordeal
nocturnal crucifixion
Oh L, why have you forsaken me
an' so many others
tricked into terrestrial torture
countless kids fallin'
to "freedom's" loving firearms
an' how many abductions
the girls, L
did you forget the girls, too?
what lessons
to lay on me now
beyond devotion
to the good of all?
is it because
as Bro Phil suggests
you don't exist?
but I know
there is an orchestrator
a conductor, a puppeteer
that plays with us
Bro Phi asked
if an Easter poem
was on the way
as if casting a seed
on fertile ground
I hope—
I don't pray too much these days
'cause like cussin'
it don't seem to go nowheres—
I hope
for some resurrection
on too many levels
in to many arenas
always askin' too much
o' you L.
—Boney Oscar, March 2018

Easter Seed

Buddy's Call (Part 2)

an' jus then ole Buddy Satua called in
sayin' "I hear ya Bro
but dont'cha remember
what I told ya'
long before Brother J
started turnin' his cheeks:
This big beautiful green thing
is jus' a heap o' sufferin'
learnin' to deal is bliss
an' ya know what else—
stick aroun' Bro
things fo sho gonna be different"
—Boney Oscar, March 2018

DAR Good Citizen Scholarship

Marya Makuc

The Massachusetts chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has announced that on Saturday, March 10, Marya Makuc of Monterey was named the DAR Good Citizens Scholarship winner for the state of Massachusetts.

Selected in November as the school recipient of the DAR Good Citizens award, Marya, a senior at Mount Everett Regional High School, was then asked to compete in the national essay writing contest. In a timed essay, Marya wrote about how America has advanced the cause for freedom in the rest of the world. Her essay made the case that the American people have and will continue to inspire the fight for freedom on a global scale only if they continue to take the responsibility as citizens of a democracy seriously. In her words, "The contract of a constitution is only as valuable as it is respected—only as useful as its citizens make it."

Of thirty applicants, Marya was chosen as the recipient of this award because of her strong essay and her dedication to the community of Monterey and the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Among her various accolades, the DAR coordinator of this award highlighted her volunteer work through the Monterey Library as President of the Friends, her fundraising and execution of a project to update two rooms within Mount Everett, and her initiative to implement the TED platform at Mount Everett and co-organize the TEDx Youth@MountEverettRS event (to be held on June 9, 2018).

At the presentation was Holly Blair, Massachusetts State Regent, on the left, and Margaret Joseph, Coordinator of the Good Citizens award, on the right.

Marya noted that she is appreciative of family, teachers, and townspeople of Monterey who have shown her the importance of civic participation and modeled good citizenship through everyday acts to improve the lives of others both locally and globally.

TED Talks at Mount Everett School

Mount Everett Regional High School will host TEDx Youth@MountEverettRS on Saturday, June 9. Student, alumni, and community member talks under the theme of Roots/Routes will be given between 1 and 5 p.m., followed by a brief reception. The speaker list features Mount Everett students participating in the TED Ed Mount Everett Club, including Nadia Makuc, Evie Kerr, and Patrick Haiss. Presentations of "ideas worth spreading" will relate to the topics of economics, aquaponics, the Appalachian Trail, and travel, among others. Complimentary food will be provided.

Given that this is a youth event, we are seeking student and community member attendees who are passionate about learning and open to new ideas!

Registration for this event will open May 1, and can be completed on ted.com/tedx/events/29731. Seating for the event is limited to one hundred; therefore, each seat is very precious. Please only register if you will be able to attend the entire event.

Questions can be directed to me, at makuc.marya@gmail.com.

—Marya Makuc

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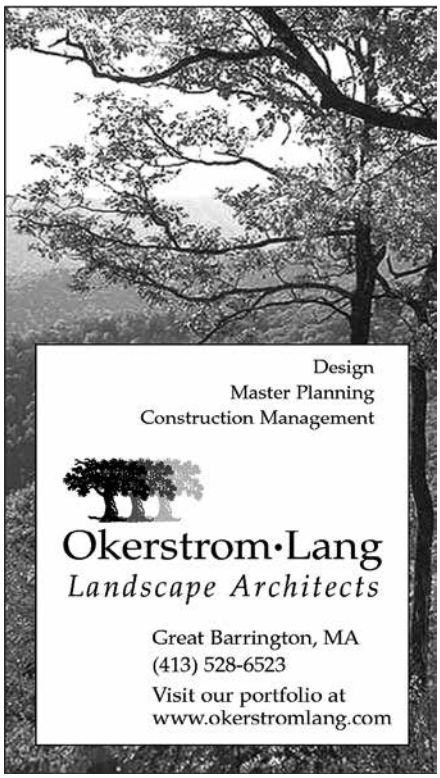

Knox Gallery in May

Thanks to everyone for turning out for the opening reception for Deborah Pressman's *Lines in the Landscape* on April 14. Kenn Basler's refreshment catering was once again surpassed only by the beautiful artwork and the enthusiastic crowd assembled.

Maureen Banner

Maureen Banner

Folks listening with rapt attention to Deborah Pressman's artist talk in April

Kit Patten

Please mark your calendars for the opening of Monterey resident Kit Patten's *Making Faces*, on Friday, May 4, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. You won't want to miss Patten's artist's talk immediately before, at 5:30. Please note that the date is coming up right away—the evening before the town meeting.

Patten has been busy. He made a decision to make a painting of a face every day during 2017, and he did not fall short. The artist set his goal largely because he finds that capturing a likeness requires amazing skill, as it requires not only representing a likeness, but, more importantly, capturing the essence of another human being. "When I succeed, there's nothing like it," the artist states. The list of portraitists whom he greatly admires includes iconic caricaturist Al Hirschfeld, British cartoonist Gerald Scarfe, Welsh illustrator Ralph Steadman, and Flemish Baroque master court painter Anthony van Dyck.

After living for many years in New England, Patten and his wife, Connie, studied yoga at Kripalu and fell in love with the beauty and rich culture of the rural Berkshire countryside and, in 2008, settled in Monterey. Patten graduated from the University of Vermont with a degree in studio arts, and has exhibited in one-person shows in Vermont and Massachusetts, including one at the Knox Gallery, and Deb Koffman's "Little Gallery" in Housatonic. His work adds a valuable addition to every Knox Gallery group show, and we are forever grateful for his generous enthusiasm in contributing creative, artful signs that announce our exhibits.

Known for the humor his work exudes, Patten briefly found a home as window dresser in the mid-1980s. The venue was an excellent arena for his exploration of amusing ideas that were realized as temporary spaces and vignettes.

Patten hopes that his work invites viewers to look at the world around them from a different point of view. Humor is interjected throughout his work. As he says, "I can't help it, so I may as well call it intentional!"

Please see the April issue of the *Monterey News* for more information on *Making Faces*, which will be on view from April 27 through June 2. All exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, www.MontereyMassLibrary.org/knox-gallery/ 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 413-528-3795. Facebook.com/Knox Gallery Instagram.com/knoxgallery @Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates

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SAT, MAY 19 7 PM $15
children under 12 - $5
Family Cabaret with Anni Crofut

These programs are supported in part by a grant from the Sandisfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Mass Cultural Council

Here's a Thought
It's Almost a Garden

A few years ago, this was my "Welcome to the World" quilt for a little girl who's now growing like a weed and runs into life excited about the next taste of garden bounty. But, even without that happy awareness, whenever I see this quilt photo, I smile.

When I finished it, I sat back to take a good look at the results of my labor. My first thought was—It's almost a garden! I couldn't help but smile.

I smile when I think about getting my hands in the dirt again this year, too. Like everyone else affected by the "It's Still Too Early to Plant" gardening virus, I can't wait to get out there. Do you have that virus, too? One of the symptoms—It's almost a garden!

Of course, that massively oversimplified the process. A garden is a twice-born event, like everything else we see, hear, smell, taste, or touch. First it's born as an idea held in a human mind. But an idea has a long way to go before it gets born into the physical world.

Right now, in many Monterey households, the idea "garden" is being born. Labor may be well into, or through, the idea phase. It depends on whether a particular gardener starts the crops from seed, or plans to join the flocks buying seedlings at Ward's, Agway, Taft Farms, or elsewhere at the end of the month.

Either way, our gardens have already come a long way before all our passion, hope, and planning give way to planting. Our gardens began in the parent plants before these 2018-season seeds were formed. They began in the soil that anchored and fed those parent plants, and in the rain, wind, and sunshine those plants encountered.

Mary Kate Jordan

Freezing rain is falling as I write this. But Monterey gardeners, and the earth herself, are getting ready to roll anyway. (It's New England. I should have said, "rock and roll.") Gardeners and peepers, crocuses, violets, and early peas—we're all different species of cockeyed optimists. We're sure intention, united with attention, is taking on flesh, or will do so soon.

We're willing to bet that our gardens will develop height, breadth, depth, color, fragrance, flavor. We're willing to be grateful for the work of stewarding the process. We're even willing to try again next year, no matter how the harvest turns out. In good years, we celebrate, and try to sneak pre-dawn bags of zucchini onto other people's porches. In challenging years, we turn our gardens into stories about the season, and harvest those.

So, Monterey, here's a rousing cheer to getting our hands back in the dirt. Here's another to celebrate all the labor that's already gone into our hopes for beautiful, and productive, gardens. And here's a third to nurture earth, and the gardeners, who nurture this year's gardens.

—Mary Kate Jordan

Community Potluck May 16
Nini Gilder

The April potluck was an animal lover's delight. Dr. Richard Greene, from Goose Pond in Tyringham, showed us many pictures and videos from his backyard and other places using his trail cameras to capture marvelous images of moose, coyotes, bobcats, otters, deer, even porcupines, wood ducks, woodcocks, bobcats, and beaver. Such fun! Thanks so much, and good luck in your retirement.

Next month, we have Nini Gilder, also from Tyringham, who is the author of several books on the Berkshires, the most recent of which is *Edith Wharton's Lenox*. In 1900, still an aspiring novelist in her late thirties, Edith Wharton caused a stir upon entering the well-established summer colony of Lenox. With rare photos and archival materials, *Edith Wharton's Lenox* gives an insider's glimpse of the community's reaction to a formidable star in their midst, from a perspective never told before. Commercial success and emotional tragedy were intermingled in Wharton's Lenox.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held Wednesday, May 16, at 6 p.m., at the Monterey Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Please join us—everyone is.

—Kyle Pierce

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"I Wish I Was a Mole in the Ground..."

(Old-time American folksong)

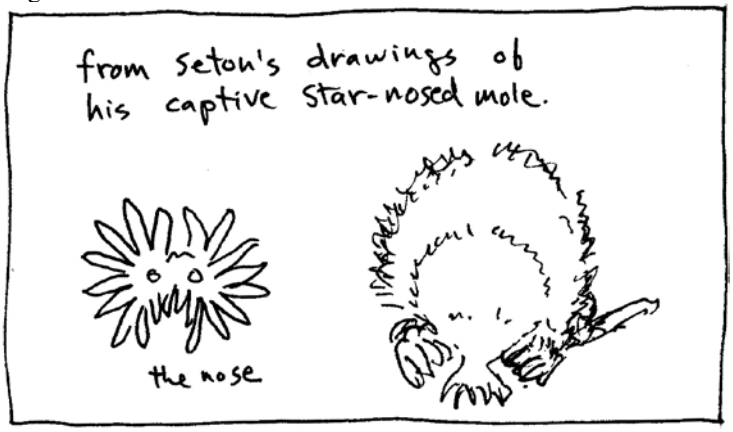
Moles are members of an animal family called Talpidae. This is part of a larger taxonomic grouping, an order, the Insectivora. It includes the moles and the shrews, the insect eaters. At a quick glance anyone might take this small furry mammal to be a mouse. They do look similar.

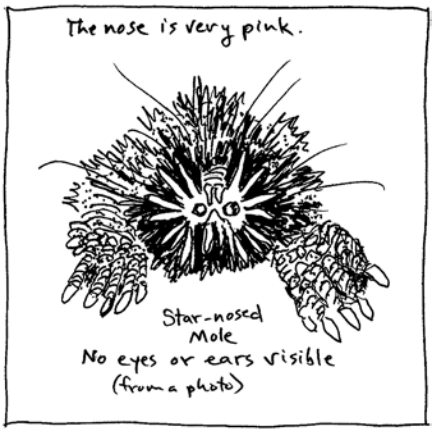
There are folks who worry that moles nibble on favorite plants or bulbs in the garden beds. This is unlikely—moles do not eat plants and seeds. That would be the mice, or chipmunks, who often live in the same neighborhood as moles. In fact, the "field mice," also called voles, make good use of mole tunnels to go after underground vegetable food. But moles, the original true diggers, eat meat: insects, slugs, snails, earthworms, and centipedes.

Anyone taking a close look at a mole will notice a big five-toed and heavily clawed shovel at the end of each front leg. With these front paws and other advantages, moles can make good headway just under the surface of the ground, often pushing up visible ridges in the leaf-mold or the golf course, or the lawn. Moles can also dig deep tunnels, headed way underground for safety, for nesting, for living quarters. The tunnel a mole makes is about an inch and a half across, and the dirt from a shallow tunnel may be humped up along the surface. From the deep tunnels, ten to eighteen inches underground, dirt is brought up through vertical shafts to form small mountains, or molehills.

Now that the snow has melted, earthworks are revealed. Here at our place we have a shallow tunnel mole path that heads from the compost pile over to the garden. The little hunters are after worms and any grubs or beetle larvae that live in the dirt. Probably our moles are eastern moles, also called *Scalopus aquaticus*. Carl Linnaeus, Swedish botanist and early taxonomist, found his first mole drowned in a well. He noticed the toes of those broad front feet were somewhat webbed and made the connection this must be a swimming creature. So he gave it the species name *aquaticus*.

Moles can swim, but our eastern mole swims mainly through dirt. The species that swims often and for hunting in water is the star-nosed mole, and I have seen one because years ago we had a cat that brought one in. These are called *Condylura cristata*, which implies that they have a knobby tail, and then describes a crest or star of tentacles in the nose. The tail is unusual, being proportionately much longer than that of other moles. Besides this, the tail can double in size, as a food storage adaptation. In fact, it is only "knobby" in a dried specimen or "study skin."





The Canadian naturalist Ernest Thompson Seton kept a star-nosed mole awhile and observed all its actions. He put it in water and found that it paddles with all four feet, alternating left and right strokes, and seems to be sculling with its big tail. We know from Seton and others that this kind of mole heads for the water and marshy places looking for food. Seton wrote, this is "the least molish of its family, preferring swimming to digging and a low meadow, a mossy bog, or even a wet marsh to the most alluring of upland pastures." (*Life Histories of Northern Animals*, Vol. II, 1909)

Seton was an artist and his book gives careful drawings of the "nasal disk" of the star-nosed mole. This has twenty-two little feelers or protuberances, and when Seton provided the caged mole with some earthworms, it "fell on the worms with great demonstration, continually twiddling them with his 22 nose-fingers. Though avid, he ate them slowly, holding them with his foreclaws and tearing them up before devouring. In half an hour all were gone." Seton had provided twelve grams of worms.

Another kind of mole in these parts is the hairy-tailed mole, *Parascalops brewerii*. Like the other two species, these have fossorial forelegs, which means designed for digging. Also like the other two kinds of moles, Parascalops are about six to eight inches long and make two kinds of tunnels, shallow and deep. All the moles have special coats of velvety close fur which is set up to let them move forward or backward easily. Each hair is tapered at the point where it comes out of the skin so there is no right way or wrong way for the fur to lie. When the little animal is in a close tunnel, it can back up with ease.

Moles mate in March and have their babies six weeks later. These little moles are called pups, and after a month they are ready for life on their own. The star-nosed moles sometimes live in groups, or colonies, but the other kinds have a solitary life, mostly underground. Seton heard his mole give a husky squeak once. Others report the male moles sometimes grind their teeth. Otherwise, these are quiet animals going about their business out of sight. It's too bad we use what we know of moles to make this our word for someone who is a spy within a group, someone who secretly gives information to the enemy. The real mole, though mostly out of sight, is as honest as can be, with no ulterior motives.

In the song quoted above, "I wish I was a mole in the ground," the singer longs for the ability of the mole to "root that mountain down." This shows real admiration for the fossorial power of the quiet, honest, gifted mole.

—Bonner McAllester

2018 Fund Appeal Donors

The fund appeal letters that were sent out last month in the mail, along with the emailed PDF version, stimulated people who enjoy and depend on the *Monterey News* to help support us. Below is a list of approximately 160 folks who've generously supported the paper. As of late April there were many more that had been received, and we'll be pleased to list additional names in the June issue.

During the summer we will have a fund appeal insert for the people who pick up roughly three hundred copies each month. But you needn't wait for these letters. You can send a donation anytime to the *Monterey News*, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245. For nearly fifty years the *Monterey News* has been published and distributed free of charge because of such support.

Thank you.

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The Vernal Pool Salamander

There are eleven different species of salamanders in Massachusetts, which come in as many different colors and patterns. With their slender bodies and long tails, they resemble lizards, but lizards are reptiles and salamanders are amphibians, using their wet skin as a surface through which to breath. The most common species seen around here is the small eastern newt, sometimes called the red-spotted newt, with black circular dots all across its body. It has an unusual three-part life cycle that begins as a fully aquatic vertebrate with visible gills. Later in the season, it morphs temporarily into a terrestrial bright eft stage. After a period of time, perhaps as long as two to three years, it finally returns to water as a yellow and green adult.

The spotted salamander, also in my illustration, is very common, with a densely colored dark blue body offset with large yellow spots. It spends much of the year hibernating in small underground burrows. In winter, parts of its body may freeze solid. Thawing out in the spring, it awakens and emerges to travel to vernal pools for breeding.

Most salamanders are poisonous to eat and quickly exude bad tasting toxic substances when threatened by a predator. They advertise the deadly chemical in their body by flashing a bright unnatural color as a warning. If they should be caught by the tail, they also have the ability to quickly shed it, and later grow a new one. They can also re-grow other features such as legs and feet. Salamanders do not have ears and communicate by sensitive touch of skin and erratic behavior.

Courtship begins when the male brightens up his colors to attract a female, and then rubbing noses with her to ensure compatibility. Coming from a mile or more, salamanders (and frogs) can gather in great numbers, often referred to as "a congress" by naturalists. The congress of these amphibians is often activated by several consecutive days above 45° followed by a heavy rain. After producing jelly-like egg masses on the moist forest floor attached to vegetation, the adults may remain nearby, perhaps as good parents, until the eggs hatch. This takes one to two months , depending on water temperatures.

Vernal pools are essential to provide a safe breeding haven for salamanders since the pools are landlocked and temporarily watered by melting ice and snow after spring rains. Since such shallow woodland hollows or meadows eventually dry up, they are inaccessible and inhospitable to predatory fish. There are still many other enemies, and several species are endangered by human interference with their habitat.

The main possible threat for the future, of course, is global warming should this lead to the drying up of vernal pools. But most depletion of breeding population has been due to construction of well-traveled roads across migration routes to vernal pools. However, public education about salamanders has helped turn things around, improving environmental awareness. Conservation programs such as construction of tunnels for migration passage under roads have been successful.

When walking near wetlands such as the meeting house trail at the Bidwell House, or the trail to Gould Farm from the Berkshire Fish Hatchery, it is best to let salamanders alone to complete their annual spring pilgrimage. For millions of years fiddlehead ferns have symbolically unfolded as sentinels along a successful path to a nearby aquatic oasis. Vernal pools are where an aquatic link in the chain of evolution remains unbroken since the melting of the Wisconsin glacier above.

On a balmy night, if you open your bedtime window, you may hear the orchestration of the tiny tree frog that sings a spring song to be heard for up to a quarter mile. Fiddleheads and now tree frogs? Thought this was about salamanders!

This celebrated annual chorus may seem to reverberate like the rhythm of an Earthly heartbeat—the planetary pulse of the solar season of renewal.

—George B. Emmons

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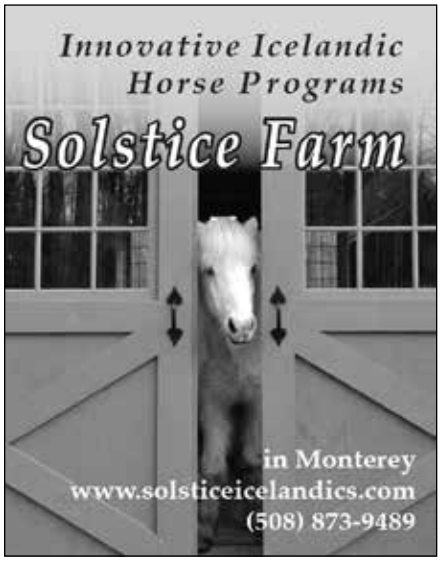

Letters
Affordable Housing

Steven Weisz correctly points out in the April issue of the *Monterey News* that demographic changes and an aging population raise the question of housing that will help Monterey's aging population remain in town.

Massachusetts Comprehensive Permit Act: Chapter 40B is a vehicle for doing this. 40B allows developers of affordable housing to override certain aspects of municipal zoning bylaws. A two-acre zoning requirement and the cost of land is an impediment to low-cost housing. Many years ago, when I lived in Monterey, I proposed a nonprofit development of mixed low-cost and market-priced one- bedroom attached condos on the land where the community center is located. There was no interest and there were objections that undesirable people would move into the units. A properly organized nonprofit can be created by interested Monterey citizens to build a project and the income generated from rentals or sales would help pay for it.

—Riccardo Boehm

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Memorial Service-Ed Dunlop

Ed Dunlop, a long time resident of Monterey, passed away on Saturday, January 6, at the age of 98. He had been residing at the Pierce Memorial Baptist Home, in Brooklyn, CT.

There will be a memorial service commemorating Ed's life at the Monterey Church of Christ in Monterey on Sunday, May 20, at 1 p.m.

Fishing Derby Dates

This year's fishing derbies started on Saturday, April 14. They continue through September on the second Saturday mornings of each month, so May 14, June 9, July 14, August 11, and September 8.

All events are open to children thirteen and under, and run from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Some gear is available for children who do not have their own. Prizes are also awarded.

—Brian Layton
Berkshire National Fish Hatchery

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Thinking of a day out?
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Monday.....7–9 p.m.
Tuesday.....9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Wednesday.....2–5 p.m.
Thursday.....4–6 p.m.
Friday.....4–8 p.m.
Saturday..9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
.....7–9 p.m.

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Rememberance
Neil Ellenoff

Neil Ellenoff, 88, of Lauderdale by the Sea, New York City, and Monterey, MA, died at his Florida home on April 17, 2018 after a long illness. The son of Frank and Dresden Ellenoff, he was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. He graduated from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and received a JD from Columbia Law School. Neil served in the US Army from 1954 to 1956. In 1961 he opened an accounting firm in NYC, and in 1988 in Doylestown, PA.

Neil was a benefactor to many organizations and most recently served as treasurer on the boards of The Berkshire Theater Group, The Mount in Lenox, MA, and The Broward Library Foundation. He had a wide range of interests, including theater, music (he could recite the lyrics of most of Gilbert and Sullivan's operas), books, crossword puzzles, and bridge. He had a keen mind, a prodigious memory, a great sense of humor, and was kind and generous to all. Neil was predeceased by his first spouse, Budd Mann, and is survived by his loving husband, Richard Talbot, and many friends. A memorial service will be held this summer in the Berkshires.

—Michael Ross

Steve Graves

Monterey softball resumes in early May on Sunday mornings, at 10:30 a.m., at Greene Park behind town hall. The free, informal, co-ed, pick-up games are open to all adult players (plus parents with their young adult players) of all levels. Gloves and bats available. Sunday morning Monterey softball is a community tradition going back over thirty years. New players and guests visiting Monterey are always welcome. For more info, email sgraves8@yahoo.com *—Steve Graves*

Eagle and Janet's Fund Awards

The Eagle Fund, created in 1998 to make possible exceptional and innovative educational opportunities for Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) students beyond the district's core curriculum, has awarded $51,688 in grants to the SBRSD community, in partnership with our sister endowment, Janet's Fund, both under aegis of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. Janet's Fund, named after Janet Thieriot, was established by her father and longtime Monterey resident on Wellman Road, Bob Thieriot, to honor and perpetuate her spirit.

The fund received more than twenty applications, and awarded grants to students, teachers, and community members in support of new and ongoing projects. Educational experiences will engage students about climate change, solar energy, ecology, fine arts, health, multiculturalism and robotics, among other topics. The projects funded will enrich and complement the SBRSD curriculum and are exceptional for such a small school district.

The Eagle Fund is an endowment that is funded partially through an annual student-led phone-a-thon each November. The 2017 phone-a-thon raised more than $6,500. Supporters include residents and businesses in the five towns that make up the Southern Berkshire Regional School District—Alford, Egremont, Monterey, New Marlborough, and Sheffield—as well as from nearby towns that also send students to the district. Please visit berkshiretaconic.org (search using the keyword 'Eagle') for more information and to contribute to the Fund.

—Melissa Zdziarski
Chair, Eagle Fund

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Berkshire Taconic Grants and Scholarships

$6.5 Million in 2017

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation announced that it awarded $6.5 million in grants and scholarships in 2017, an increase of over $500,000 from 2016. The foundation distributed an additional $6.7 million to over fifty nonprofits with whom they partner in stewarding financial resources used to build healthy and vibrant communities.

Individuals, schools, and nonprofits in Berkshire, northwest Litchfield, Columbia and northeast Dutchess counties received grants in a variety of interest areas, including $2.5 million for education; $1.6 million for health and human services; $1.1 million for arts and culture; and $1.1 million for civic, environmental, and religious activities.

New and existing donors contributed a total of $15.7 million in gifts in 2017. Those gifts, combined with asset growth through sound investment performance, helped Berkshire Taconic surpass $150 million under management as the foundation marked its 30th anniversary.

Since its inception in 1987 with an anonymous donation of $100,000, Berkshire Taconic has awarded more than 61,000 grants totaling over $153 million. The foundation now oversees 535 funds established by generous donors to help strengthen communities across the region.

Grants deadlines for 2018 vary throughout the year. Search and apply online at www.berkshiretaconic.org/SearchGrants.

Now in its thirtieth year, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation builds stronger communities by inspiring charitable giving. A nonprofit public charity with $152 million in assets, the foundation distributed a total of $6.5 million through grants and scholarships in 2017 to nonprofits and individuals in the arts and education, health and human services, and environmental protection. You can make a difference. We can help. berkshiretaconic.org.

ॐ

Bidwell House Summer Events

The Bidwell House Museum is so excited to welcome you back after a long and snowy winter. We have so many exciting events planned for the 2018 season. First up is the opening celebration and concert with Diane Taraz on Sunday, May 27. She will perform "A Silver Dagger: Exploring Women's History through Folksongs." Passed down for generations, folk songs show centuries of attitudes and beliefs that have fascinating echoes in our lives today. Through music that brims with energy and humor, determination and despair, Diane looks at ordinary people in centuries past, finding in old songs many clues to the inner lives of people in Europe and America from about 1500 to 1850. Women left few written records, but we can learn much about them through the music they used to speed their work, lift their spirits, or ease an aching heart. With a sparkling voice and wry humor, Diane performs songs of love, childbirth, marriage, and adventure in traditional dress and accompanies her singing with lap dulcimer and English guitar (the type of instrument played by women back then). She often sings with voice alone, the most authentic style, exploring the joys and sorrows of a world lit only by fire. A reception to celebrate the end of a successful capital campaign and the newly completed restoration of the house will follow the concert. Please note that the museum is closed for tours on May 27 and will open for the 2018 season on May 28.

June History Talks

During the first weekend of June the museum has two interesting programs planned. On June 2 you can hear John Demos, Samuel Knight Professor of American History Emeritus at Yale University and award-winning author, discuss his next book project in the first history talk of the season titled "The Silver Mountain: The Forgotten Story of the Most Extraordinary Place in all of Colonial America." Listen as Professor Demos describes the remarkable history of Potosi during its heyday as the world's greatest silver mine, and the fulcrum of the Spanish colonial empire. Founded in what is today southern Bolivia during the mid-sixteenth century, Potosi quickly rose to become the largest human community in the Western Hemisphere—a source of wealth that transformed the international economy but was, at the same time, virtually genocidal for the indigenous population. It now stands as an epitome of the massively consequential invasion of the New World by the Old.

Then on June 3, join the museum for "Birding Beyond Your Backyard," a talk and walk designed for beginning birders who want to expand their bird knowledge. This walk is all about birds of the upland forest and you will walk the trails on the Bidwell House Museum's 190+ acres of beautiful hemlock-hardwood forest.

On the following Saturday, June 9, you can enjoy the second presentation in the museum's history talk series titled "Ministers, Merchants and River Gods: The Williamses of Western Massachusetts, 1680-1780" by Kevin Sweeney, Professor Emeritus of History and American Studies at Amherst College. Noteworthy and notorious, the Williamses of Deerfield and Stockbridge were the most prominent of the powerful eighteenth-century families that came to be known as the River Gods. The story of the Williams clan's rise and fall was shaped by and helped to shape the western region's relations with Native peoples, military establishment, distinctive religious traditions, and critical political ties to Boston. All our history talks are held at the Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham.

July Events

Attention local bakers and musicians. The Bidwell Museum is hosting two events in July that will be fun for the whole community. On July 7 during the Bidwell Country Fair (formerly Township No. 1 Day) we are holding a pie baking contest. If you love to bake and want to compete for the prize of best pie, please contact the museum to register.

Then on July 8, we are holding our first ever open mic festival! From 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. there will be an open mic for all musicians who want to play. Stick around afterwards for a concert from the BTUs. If you would like to perform, contact the museum so we know how many acts to expect.

Summer Garden Party

Also, save the date for the Bidwell Museum's summer garden party to be held on August 4 at the original Berkshire Art School, now the home of Jane and Martin Schwartz. This year the museum is delighted to be honoring neighbors Jill Horner and Yo Yo Ma. There will be food, drink, a silent auction, music, and fun. Tickets will be $75 in advance, $85 at the door. If you are interested in volunteering with the party planning committee or helping out at any of the summer events, call the Museum at 528-6888.

The Bidwell House Museum is a New England heritage site providing a personal encounter with history, early American home life, and the Berkshire landscape through its land, house, and collection. The museum is a nonprofit educational institution for the benefit of the community and today's audiences of all ages, dedicated to preservation, scholarship, and enjoyment of the landmark site.

The Museum, located at 100 Art School Road, is open Thursdays to Mondays (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with tours on the hour, Memorial Day through Columbus Day. The museum grounds—192 acres of woods, fields, historic stonewalls, trails and picnic sites—are open all year free of charge. For information, call 413-528-6888. The program of events can be found on the museum's website at bidwellhousemuseum.org.

— Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

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High Anxiety–Low Anxiety

You've encountered both types. You recognize the divide, though you're not sure what explains it. There are, on one hand, those who remain unruffled whatever the circumstances, deny a crisis is at hand, attempt to normalize the situation, counsel patience and understanding. Now consider their opposite number—those whose immediate response is anxiety, agitation, even hysteria. A crisis, they declare, is at hand, a drastic response appropriate. Such divergence occurs across a broad range of common circumstances. Consider these representative examples:

This is spoiled, rancid. Don't eat it. Throw it all out.~ *It tastes okay. It just expired. There shouldn't be a problem.*

It's totally broken. Can't be fixed. It's busted. We'll have to get a new one.~ *It's minor. It can be repaired. It will be as good as new.*

We're nowhere. We're lost. What a waste. Let's just turn around and go home.~ *It's got to be around here. We've gone this far. Let's just ask.*

I'm really sick. Everything aches. I'm sure I have fever. I've got to get to the doctor.~ *Take your temperature. Drink liquids. This has happened before. Let's see how you feel in the morning.*

They're not here. Forget it. They're not coming. Let's leave.~ *Give them time. It's not that late. They probably got a little lost. What's the rush?*

Trump is ruining the country. He is a disgrace. It can only get worse. Our democracy is under attack.~ *Some people like what he's doing. He's unconventional. The 2018 elections are coming soon. Mueller will be his undoing.*

I look awful. I have nothing to wear. I'm not going!~ *You look just fine to me. What you wore the other night looked great. No one is getting very dressed for this.*

My stock is getting killed. I gotta get out. The market is going to crash.~ *Hang in there. It's just profit taking. The company is doing well. Be patient.*

They're not going to have children. They've been married over four years already. It's' not happening.~ *They're still young. There's no rush. They're trying to establish their careers first.*

It's not on. We missed it. It was supposed to be on Channel 2.~ *Check the listings again. We probably didn't have the right time. I don't think it's on yet.*

The package was lost. Or it was stolen. They should have delivered it by now.~ *They don't guarantee a delivery date. Remember, there's been really bad weather out that way.*

I suppose if this were a divorce trial, one might cite irreconcilable differences here. Still, in today's increasingly polarized society, such behavioral divergence might not be regarded as exceptional. But the fact is that people who react differently in the many situations cited above, nonetheless need to collaborate and respect where the other is coming from.

Mutual understanding and compromise is, after all, what is too often lacking these days—but is still the surest path to resolving differences and moving forward.

—Richard Skolnik

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Sandisfield Arts Benefit

The Sandisfield Arts Center will hold its annual dinner and benefit auction on Saturday, May 5, beginning at 6 p.m., at its historic site at 5 Hammertown Road in Sandisfield, MA. The theme for the event is "The Piano and the Building That Houses All 88 Keys."

The evening will begin with hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and a raffle in the art gallery, followed by a dinner upstairs prepared by chef Adam Manacher. A live auction will take place after dinner. Attendees will have the opportunity to buy their favorites keys, or even a chord or two if they wish, during the cocktail hour. Gary Miller, of Release the Penguins Jazz Quartet, will entertain on the vibraphone. Tickets are $88 and can be purchased at www.sandisfieldartscenter.org.

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Wildlife Report
March and April

March is the month of great change, mixing winter and spring. We know the bears are up thanks to Bob Carlson's photos from Beartown State Forest between Hupi Road and Mount Hunger Road, where he goes out on skis. His most recent reporting there came in video form, with narrative on the subject: fresh bear scat, full of birdseed. And a bear claw track (below).

Bob Carlson

Maureen Banner

There was birdseed all over the snowy ground at the Banners' house on Griswold Road, thanks to their tippable birdfeeder having been knocked over recently, and not by the birds. The pole is set in a big pot of cement, freestanding on the ground. When a bear leans up against it, it does not break! The whole thing just tips over, a brilliant design (above). It can be righted and refilled, and everyone is happy.

Steve Snyder reports something "Very unusual! I saw a Flying Squirrel in broad daylight." This is indeed rare, as Flying Squirrels are strictly nocturnal. Then Steve explained that this daytime flying was thanks to a Bald Eagle carrying a squirrel in its talons. This was the squirrel's last flight, its tail hanging down. Steve also saw a Ruffed Grouse crossing the road by Rawson Brook Farm.

In mid-April I saw three mergansers swimming in Royal Pond, which is along Route 23 east of the town center by about two miles, just before the Otis line. Also in Royal Pond there is a dead spar standing, maybe twenty-five feet up, and on this day an Osprey sat there, with its shining white crown over a handsome dark eye stripe, making him look like Zorro in his mask.

On New Marlborough Road Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen have seen a pair of flickers under their peach trees, also swallows and bluebirds checking out the boxes. Joe Baker saw his first Chipping Sparrow here on East Hupi in mid-April, and Kip Strawbridge from Chestnut Hill Road has seen a Red Tailed Hawk and six turkeys. Kip reports porcupines in his neighborhood, enjoying feasts of acorns. He sent the wonderful photograph below.

Kip Strawbridge

Deborah Pressman

The first butterfly in the spring is always the Mourning Cloak. Over the years we have seen them in the sugarhouse as we get the sap boiling, and this year Deborah Pressman, visiting the Banners, took a good photograph of a Mourning Cloak on a tree trunk (above). These adults winter right here, tucked under cover somewhere, and come out when the weather warms up.

So far we have no actual Black Bear sightings this year, but there was one black mammal gobbling up birdseed here: a glossy black squirrel. Our birdfeeder did not tip over.

In the large mammals department I am thrilled to have heard from Michael Genchi, down on Broderick Road on the wild east end of Lake Garfield. He was visited by a cow moose in mid-April, and his neighbor Keith Rosebrock took a great photograph of her (right).

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Thank you everyone, for your photos, your news, and your enthusiasm for the wild.

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385 or bonnermca@gmail.com

Keith Rosebrock

Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local References *Sliding Scale*

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Cheryl Zellman

Del Martin's non-wild pigs Fluffy and Oscar. However, as they are pigs, they might just have wandered to the wild side of the electric fence (seen in the foreground).

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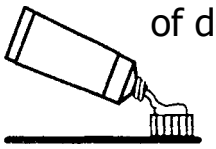

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BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

This brazen bird might not let you rest easy, even if you're lucky enough to have one-gigabyte connection speeds! Photo (and title) from Suzanne Sawyer.

Select Board Corner

The select board decided not to publish their usual column this month.

MontereyMA.gov
Our town website is a great way to access information about our town.

Meetings and Events

Annual Town Meeting: Saturday, May 5, beginning at 9:30 a.m., at the firehouse.
Town Elections: Tuesday, May 8, from noon to 7 p.m., at the firehouse.
Board of Health: Mondays, May 7 and 21, at 4 p.m.
Chair Yoga: Tuesdays, 9 to 10 a.m., at the community center.
Conservation Commission: Wednesday, May 9, at 6 p.m.
Council on Aging: Monday, May 14, at 10 a.m.
Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, May 10, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.
Foot Nurse: Thursday, May 24 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). All ages are welcome.
Parks Commission: Wednesday, May 2, at 6 p.m.
Planning Board: Thursday, May 10 and 24, at 7 p.m.
Select Board: Wednesday, May 2, at 9 a.m., May 2, at 5 p.m., and May 16, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Town Hall Closings

Town Hall is closed Monday, May 28, for Memorial Day.
We recommend always calling ahead to make sure individual offices are open when you wish to visit.

Adapting to Climate Change
Building Resiliency

Some scientists believe that the four heavy snow laden nor'easters that we experienced during the month of March are related to climate change. If this is true, then the higher snowfalls during these and subsequent spring storms could also bring increased amounts of runoff flowing into lakes and streams causing flooding and endangering the lives and properties of town residents. Such extreme weather conditions increase the vulnerability of residents, employees, students, infrastructure, and the environment. In addition, climate change may also increase the number and frequency of storms, wind damage, drought with heat- related stress, downed trees causing power losses, increases in insect-borne diseases affecting the residents of our town.

The Town of Monterey is addressing such climate change related issues through a Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness action-oriented, resiliency planning grant otherwise known as the MVP or climate change plan. At the March meeting of the MVP working group, citizens and town officials discussed various areas that tend to flood during heavy storms and indicated them on a town-wide map as part of the plan.

CHARLES J. FERRIS
Attorney at Law

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The Monterey climate change working group met on April 19 at town hall to continue the process in coordination with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission who will prepare the final document. The planning document will be based on natural hazards, weather patterns, and climate change data which will be presented to the working group of town officials and residents during a six-hour working group workshop on Saturday, May 19, at Town Hall. Following the Saturday workshop, major findings from the planning process will be presented at a June 6 public meeting with the select board for further resident input. The final report including data, workshop, and public meeting input will be forwarded to the state by the June 23 planning deadline.

Town residents are urged to attend the June 6 select board meeting and workshop to view the draft plan and to learn more about climate change and its potential impacts.

—Dennis Lynch
Monterey MVP Working Group and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Council on Aging

Fall prevention information and balance exercises are offered again at the community center. Eight sessions of "Matter of Balance" program will be held on Fridays, 1 to 3 p.m., starting April 27. To register, please call (413) 445-9232, select #1 on menu. This program is free.

The Monterey Council on Aging comedy film festival begins on Tuesday, May 1, in the town hall. *Waking Ned Devine* will be shown at 7 pm. Other dates are Tuesdays, May 8,15, 22, 29. We're planning on a ten week trial.

Beverly Dunn, RN, will be available to do foot care at town hall on Thursday, May 24, from 9 to 11 a.m. Call 528-1443, x247 for an appointment. There is a fee of $25 for Monterey residents.

The annual ballgame and picnic at Wachonah Park in Pittsfield will be on Sunday, July 8, at 5 p.m. The cost is $5 each. Call Kay Purcell at 528-9151 to sign up or get information.

—Kay Purcell
Council on Aging

Calendar

Every Sunday: Adult softball, 10:30 a.m., at Greene Park. See page 25.

Every Tuesday: Cards and games, 1 p.m., community center.

Tuesdays beginning May 1: Comedy Film Festival, sponsored by Council on Aging. *Waking Ned Devine*, 7 p.m., town hall.

Tuesdays, May 1, 8, 15: Kundalini yoga with Susan Cain, 10 to 11:30 a.m., at her home. See page 13.

Every Thursday: Dancersize, from 4 to 5 p.m., community center.

Fridays through June 15: Matter of Balance classes, 1 to 3 p.m. See page 30.

Second Fridays: May 11, board games at the community center, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Fridays beginning May 4: Mindfulness meditation with Franny Huberman, from 7 to 8 p.m. See page 12.

Thursday, May 3: Darn Yarners, at the community center, from 1 to 3 p.m. See page 13.

Friday, May 4: Kit Patten's *Making Faces* exhibit opens at the Knox Gallery. Artist's talk at 5:30 p.m., with reception following until 7:30. See page 19.

Saturday, May 5:

Annual town meeting, beginning at 9:30 at the fire house.

Sandisfield Arts Center benefit dinner and auction, 6 p.m., at the center. See page 27.

Tuesday, May 8: Town elections. Polls open at noon until 7 p.m. See page 2 through 6 for elections information.

Saturday, May 12: Fishing derby at the Berkshire Hatchery pond, 9 to 10:30 a.m. See page 24 for the other summer dates.

To subscribe to a printable monthly calendar via email, write to montereynews9@gmail.com, and put "calendar email" in the subject line or text area. Print it (one page) and forward it.

Wednesday, May 16: Community potluck supper with Nini Gilder. 6 p.m. in the church basement. See page 20.

Saturday, May 19: Lenox Contra Dance. All dances taught. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. Lenox-ContraDance.org. Contact 528-4007. lenoxcontradance.org

Sunday, May 20: *Monterey News* deadline for June issue.

Monday, May 21: Adult book group, 7:30 p.m., at the library. Discussing *The Martian,* by Andy Weir.

Sunday, May 20: Ed Dunlop's memorial service, at the Monterey church, 1 p.m. See page 24.

Saturday, May 26: Annual Otis tag sale, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., at the Otis Ridge Ski Area parking lot. See page 15.

Sunday, May 27: Bidwell House Museum Concert and Opening Celebration: "A Silver Dagger: Exploring Women's History Through Folksongs," with Diane Taraz. No charge but donations are welcome. Concert begins at 3 p.m.

Monday, May 28: Bidwell House Museum opening day. The first tour of the day will begin at 11 a.m. and there will be tours on the hour with the last tour starting at 3 p.m.

Saturday, June 2: Bidwell House Museum history talk: "The Silver Mountain: The Forgotten Story of the Most Extraordinary Place in All of Colonial America," by John Demos. Held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. Members: $10. Non-members: $15. 10 a.m. See page 26.

Sunday, June 3: "Birding Beyond Your Backyard," with Doug Bruce and Tom Ryan, Bidwell House Museum. Footing is good; very moderate elevation changes. Wear good shoes; bring water and a snack. Free. 9 to 11 a.m. See page 26.

Sunday, June 3: Mindful Art, with Kit Patten, at the community center, from 1 to 4 p.m. See page 12.

Saturday, June 9: Bidwell House Museum history talk: "Ministers, Merchants and River Gods: The Williamses of Western Massachusetts, 1680-1780," by Kevin Sweeney. Held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. Members: $10. Non-members: $15. 10 a.m.

Tuesdays, June 19 to July 21: Singing at the community center with Oren Rosenthal. 7:30 p.m. See page 12.

Town Contact Information Emergency! 911

Administrative Assistant:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443 x118
buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Community Center: 528-3600
center@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency):
528-3136
chief@montereyma.gov

Highway Department.: 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov

Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency):
528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov

Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

Memorial Day Parade
Monday, May 28

The Town of Monterey is once again pleased to sponsor the Memorial Day Parade. The parade assembles at the junction of Route 23 and Sandisfield Road, and is scheduled to begin the march to the firehouse pavilion at 1 p.m., not at noon (as stated in the print version of this paper). Join your friends and neighbors for hot dogs, conversations, and entertainment. The parade is a great kick-off for the summer in Monterey.

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Editor.....Stephen Moore
Wildlife Editor .....Bonner McAllester
Copy Editor..... Kateri Kosek
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
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Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, p. 24; George Emmons, p. 23;
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